

standing. a cooperative research and development agreement, and any similar instrument.

"(2) Projects under the program may include demonstration projects.

§ 7903. Ocean Research Advisory Panel

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Council shall establish an Ocean Research Advisory Panel consisting of not less than 10 and not more than 18 members appointed by the Council from among persons eminent in the fields of marine science or marine policy, or related fields, and who are representative, at a minimum, of the interests of government, academia, and industry.

"(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Council shall assign to the Advisory Panel responsibilities that the Council considers appropriate."

(2) The table of chapters at the beginning of subtitle C of title 10, United States Code, and the table of chapters at the beginning of part IV of such subtitle, are each amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 663 the following:

"665. National Oceanographic Partnership Program. 7901".

(2) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS.—The Secretary of the Navy shall make the appointments required by section 7902(b) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), not later than December 1, 1996.

(3) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS OF ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS.—The National Ocean Research Leadership Council established by section 7902 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), shall make the appointments required by section 7903 of such title not later than January 1, 1997.

(4) FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL OCEAN RESEARCH LEADERSHIP COUNCIL.—The first annual report required by section 7902(f) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), shall be submitted to Congress not later than March 1, 1997. The first report shall include, in addition to the information required by such section, information about the terms of office, procedures, and responsibilities of the Ocean

Research and Advisory Panel established by the Council.

(e)

AUTHORIZATION.—(1) Of the amount authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Navy by section 201(2)

\$13,000,000 shall be available for the National Oceanographic Partnership Program established pursuant to section 7901 of title 10, United States

Code, as added by subsection (a)(1).

(2) Of the amount authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the Navy by section 301(2), \$7,500,000 shall be available for such program.

(b) FUNDING FOR PROGRAM OFFICE.—Of the amount appropriated for the National Oceanographic Partnership Program for fiscal year 1997, at least \$500,000, or 3 percent of the amount appropriated, whichever is greater, shall be available for operations of the partnership program office established pursuant to section 7902(a) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), for such fiscal year.

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